

## IT MADE LINCOLN WEEP

How He Appeared and Acted in His Home Before His Inauguration.

## PARTING FROM SPRINGFIELD

Prominent Actors in a Memorable Episode—Remarks Which Bore the Impress of Inspiration and Prophecy.

In the latter part of January, 1861, I saw much of Abraham Lincoln at his own home in Springfield, Illinois, and spent an evening with him, alone the greater part of the time, just prior to his start for Washington, writes Joe Howard in the Chicago Herald. Hearing his clock strike at midnight on the 10th of February, he took a last look at his little office, patting affectionately his law books and looking wistfully at a few old-time engravings on the wall. Turning to leave the place he should never see again, he said, as he brushed the tears from his eyes with his long, big knuckled finger: "There are other friends than memory, thank God, and these old friends I'll send for."

The next morning bright and early he was up, breakfasted with the family and started for the train. With him were his wife and children, an old friend, Marshal Lamont; some local newspapermen, and representatives of New York newspapers. As he entered the depot his fellow citizens, in thousands assembled, sent up a mighty cheer, and a tremendous bundle of letters were handed him. He was very tall, with cavernous eyes and high cheek bones, a wide Henry Clay mouth and dark brown hair, stooping shoulders and a sad face. Having deposited the bundle of letters upon a trunk, he faced the great assemblage and said: "My friends, no one not in my position can appreciate the sadness I feel at this parting."

The crowd drew nearer as his voice faltered. "To these people I owe all that I am. Here I have lived more than a quarter of a century. Here my children were born, and here one of them lies buried. I know not how soon I shall see you again. A duty devolves upon me which is perhaps greater than that which has devolved upon any man since the days of Washington. He never would have succeeded except for the aid of divine Providence, upon which at all times he had relied. I feel that I cannot succeed without the same divine aid which sustained him, and in the same Almighty being I place my reliance for support, and hope you, my friends, will all pray that I may receive that divine assistance without which I cannot succeed and with which success is certain. Again I bid you all an affectionate farewell." Nothing remarkable in what he said, but oh, for a photograph of his manner and his bearing, for now that the healing, cooling waves of a third of a century have swept away every vestige of ill feeling, and removed a feverishness which threatened to burn the very core of the country in those tremendous days, it is well the people should understand that from the first moment he began his fateful journey until the final, frightful end, he was the same martyr president, the good man, the thoughtful patriot, the earnest, solicitous friend of his country, north, south, east and west.

That everybody should run forward to shake the hands of the president-elect is very natural.

They did. He, with a wave of his hand, went in. We had no palace cars then, and there was the customary confusion of seats, bundles and wraps, to which he paid no attention; but, with considerable difficulty, putting one long leg over the other long leg, he sank down into a little semicircle of himself, and barely spoke until thundering cannon announced the arrival of the train in Toledo, where, after a salute and in response to great cheering and shouting, appearing on the platform, he said: "I am leaving you on an errand of national importance, attended, as you are aware, with considerable difficulty. Let us believe as somebody has expressed it, that behind the cloud the sun is shining still. I bid you an affectionate farewell, and so on from Indianapolis to Cincinnati, and from Columbus to Pittsburgh, from Cleveland to Buffalo, from Albany to Boston, there was a continuous ovation. It was an anxious study by his opponents and a singular succession of suggestive remarks which, looked at through the long vista telescope of a third of a century, bears the impress of inspiration and prophecy.

The inauguration of Mr. Lincoln was attended with the most brilliant ceremonies ever seen in Washington. With the exception of the grand review at the close of the war, the display was in every sense the finest the capital of the nation has ever seen. Mr. Lincoln and his family had been stopping in Willard's hotel. He had met President Buchanan, who was a courtly, portly, "old time" personage, with snow white hair, a clean-shaven face, a high white cravat and perfect suavity of demeanor, and it had been arranged that the retiring president should call at the hotel for the president-elect. It was an anxious day. The military, some 20 well-drilled companies, were on parade, cavalry, infantry and artillery, and at noon, with Buchanan and Lincoln side by side in an open carriage, followed by other citizens of note at a moderate pace, with soldiers in front of them and soldiers in the rear of them, on horseback and in carriages, ladies and gentlemen attending, with an immense assemblage moving processionally, they marched to the capitol. The judges of the supreme court in their gowns looking like so many venerable lambs, it is the front row of the senate chamber, on the right. The members of the cabinet of Mr. Buchanan and those to come in the Lincoln cabinet were on the left. The diplomatic corps in full court dress, senators, governors, members of the house and ladies packed the place. Outside of the senate chamber, on the platform, a little temple-like structure, with seats and benches and chairs on either side, and in the rear were the dignitaries; while massed in front stood scores of thousands of men and women, white and black, with faces upturned waiting for the inauguration of the first republican president.

President Buchanan was a gentleman. I have never shared the suspicion that his sympathies were with the South, other than to this extent, he was a democrat of the democrats; as that party was then understood; that his friends and connections, his political supporters and his hard campaign workers were from the other side of the Mason and Dixon's line. But he was a good hearted man who hated trouble and who felt perhaps as many wise men did feel that if the worst came to the worst it might be better to "let the wayward sisters go in" and let him live to the properties of the occasion he bore himself not only like the president of the United States, but like a gentleman born and bred, welcoming with smile and courteous urbanity a successor against whose incoming he had fought, but whose appearance he greeted with characteristic dignity.

What a group then stood on that historic spot.

Bear in mind the cloudless sky, the little chilling wind that fanned the fevered brows beneath; think of the magnificent edifice; call to mind, as in a picture, the platform packed with ladies and with distinguished men from all quarters of the globe, our own in ordinary attire—those from beyond the sea in all the gaudy plumage of the foreign diplomatic costume, while approaching this temple-like structure were three marked men—Chief Justice Taney, President James Buchanan and Abraham Lincoln.

The book held by the venerable chief justice was kissed with solemn earnestness by the president-elect, as with upturned eyes, uplifted hand, and heart surcharged with patriotism, in a clear, distinct, audible voice he repeated the oath of office.

How simple, yet how vast the meaning of that ceremony. This minute he the chief executive of a great nation, the next minute he the chief executive of a great nation; the former walking quietly and unattended to his hotel, the latter riding in triumph, attended by shouting and tumultuous cheering to the White House, the official home, from which he never again to go, a conqueror of rebellion, the victim of an assassin.

## LANTERN SYMBOLS OF RANK.

A Strange Old Custom Still Prevailing in Parts of Germany.

The distinctions of rank which exist in European countries give rise to troubles, which, though they may seem rather amusing as well as trivial to us, are in reality quite serious to the persons concerned in them. In Stuttgart, years ago, says the Youth's Companion, there existed a curious custom which is not yet entirely abolished, and, in fact, still flourishes quite vigorously in some parts of Germany and Switzerland. This was the use of lanterns of different varieties and sizes by which, at night, the rank of the party could be easily distinguished.

The lanterns were carried by servants who were sent to escort their mistresses home from places of amusement, and they made the square in front of the Royal opera house, where most of the entertainments were then given, quite picturesque, with the lights bobbing up and down in every direction.

The differences between some of these lanterns were slight, but they had to be strictly observed, or trouble arose. The order of rank, as set forth in the "rank list," was something from which they could never swerve. Some had lanterns of light, some of brass; some had lights and other tallow; even the number of lights was prescribed for each separate class or rank.

## Very Discreet.

From the London Tid-Bits.

Little Minnie, aged 10, had just returned from a children's party. "Did you dance with Tommy Fizzle-top?" asked her mother. "No, I didn't. He asked me a dozen times to dance with him, but I refused him. I just let him suffer."

"You refused to dance with him? Why did you act so impolitely?"

"Because I had my reasons. I don't know what the little 6-year-old fellow means. I wonder if he thinks I am going to compromise myself. If he thinks I am anxious to encumber myself with the care and responsibilities of matrimony, he is very much mistaken."

## New Light on History.

From Life.

Teacher—Who was the first murderer?

Son of Distinguished Lawyer—Nobody knows. In that Cain and Abel case Cain had no lawyer to defend him, so the thing went by default and he got convicted.

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